

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives readily acknowledge the importance of tourism to the vitality, strength, and depth of the Show-Me State economy; and

Whereas, the St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission will serve as the local host of International Pow Wow-St. Louis from May 17 to May 21, 2003; and

Whereas, held annually in a major United States destination, International Pow Wows have recently appeared in New Orleans, New York, Los Angeles, Orlando, Chicago, and Miami to link international travel buyers with such American travel suppliers as destinations, hotel companies, airlines, and other providers of goods and services; and

Whereas, booked by the St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission in 1998, International Pow Wow-St. Louis will be attended by as many as 5,000 delegates, including tour operators from seventy countries and travel suppliers from across the United States, and approximately 250 members of the international travel trade and consumer press; and

Whereas, International Pow Wows are managed by the Washington, D.C., based Travel Industry Association of America, a national, non-profit organization which represents all components of the \$545 billion United States travel industry and which takes as its mission the promotion and facilitation of increased travel to and within the United States; and

Whereas, during their stay in St. Louis, International Pow Wow delegates will conduct business meetings, visit the America's Center trade show, take sightseeing tours and press tours, and attend evening events designed to showcase the city and region, and private functions sponsored by national travel industry suppliers; and

Whereas, St. Louis, Missouri, welcomes 16.7 million visitors each year who contribute \$3.8 billion to the local economy:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the selection of St. Louis, Missouri, as the site of the nation's premiere travel industry trade show, International Pow Wow, from May 17 to May 21, 2003, and to convey to all of those involved in planning and preparation stages of the event this legislative body's heartiest congratulations and best wishes for unparalleled success; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of International Pow Wow-St. Louis.

Offered by _____
Representative Robin Wright-Jones
District No. 63

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 2122, adopted April 23, 2003.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker